

Helicopter Design Analysis

The helicopters pictured are the Model 214ST, an 18-place craft developed primarily for the offshore petroleum and construction industries, and the Model 412 executive transport (bottom). They are two of a line of civil and military helicopters produced by Bell Helicopter Textron, Fort Worth, Texas. In designing the helicopters shown and other craft, Bell makes use of a NASA/COSMIC computer program known as VASP. The program is employed in analysis of helicopter hardware and as a guide for postulating new designs for autopilot equipment. The company reports that use of VASP enables performance of more accurate analyses to insure product safety; the COSMIC program also aids improved production efficiency.

